

REMARKS

This application now contains claims 26 through 51. Claims 1 through 25 are canceled. Favorable consideration is respectfully urged.

The present application was originally prepared in German and then translated into English. The original claims, namely claims 1 through 25, were prepared in accordance with German practice. Applicants have herein canceled claims 1 through 25, and added claims 26 through 51, which are structured in accordance with U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment adding claims 26 through 51, is neither narrowing nor made for substantial reasons related to patentability as defined by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Therefore, the addition of claims 26 through 51 does not create prosecution history estoppel and, as such, the doctrine of equivalents is available for all of the elements of claims 26 through 51.

Respectfully submitted,

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